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**Geologische Charakterbilder.** Herausgegeben von Dr. H. Stille. Heft. 1. Eisberge und Inlandeis in der Antarktis. Von E. Philippi. Six Plates with descriptive Text. Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin, 1910. M. 3.60.

A new publication that promises to be of much value. It is proposed to produce superior pictures from photographs, illustrating the morphology of the earth's surface, the structure of mountains, the development of typical geological formations, etc., with descriptive and explanatory text. The plates in No. 1 (each  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6$  or  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches, exclusive of margin) embrace the following views of Antarctic ice:

Das Inlandeis westlich vom Gaussberge; Tafelförmiger Eisberg, schwimmend. Posadowsky-Bucht; Senkrechte Wand eines etwa 40 m. hohen Eisberges mit deutlicher Schichtung und Schmelzwasserkanälen, eingefroren im Meereis der Posadowsky-Bucht.; Auf Grund geratener und in der Mitte geborstener tafelförmiger Eisberg, Posadowsky-Bucht.; Gewältzer Eisberg mit gerundeter Aussenseite und tief eingeschmolzenem Schuttbande in der Nähe des Gaussberges.; Schuttführende Wand eines Eisberges mit zahlreichen herausgeschmolzenen Geschieben. Posadowsky-Bucht.

The pictures show, with much clearness, a large amount of detail and each is fully described by Dr. Philippi, professor of geology in the University of Jena and the geologist of the German South Polar expedition on the Gauss, 1901-93. The publishers have in view five subjects for the succeeding numbers of 1910, and in the list of other contributors who have promised illustrated topics is N. H. Darton, the Washington geologist.

**An Oriental Land of the Free.** Life and Mission Work among the Laos of Siam, Burma, China, and Indo-China. 200 pp., map, illustrations and index. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1910.

A book of ethnological and geographical interest. The author, a missionary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions at Chieng Mai, Laos, gives a very careful account of this numerous and wide-spread people, who live under the jurisdiction of the four different countries mentioned in the title. The missionary work among them is confined mainly to the large area east of Burma between the Salwin and the Mekong rivers; in other words, to the western half of Laos. Mr. Freeman gives a good description of the land, much detail with regard to the nature and life of the people and about a third of the book to missionary touring and teaching, the native church and the needs and opportunities of the work. While primarily prepared as a text-book for those who are studying Missions systematically, the book is valuable for general readers and libraries. The author says that the Laos people, in their migration from the east, were profoundly affected by only one outside influence, that of Buddhism, which gave them their alphabet, stimulated the growth of a considerable literature, and was great and beneficent in its educational influence.

**A Labrador Spring.** By Charles W. Townsend, M.D. 262 pp., 57 illustrations from photographs and index. 8vo. Dana Estes & Co., Boston, 1910.

An excellent book, and all the more useful because it relates to the Labrador coast, along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which is in the Canadian domain and, even yet, is not thoroughly explored. It is only a few years since the Canadians had a clear idea of the tremendous volume of water-power, available for electrical purposes, that is supplied by the numerous rivers which drop

from the Labrador plateau, not far from the Gulf edge, down to the low coastal plain. It is said to surpass the available water-power at Niagara and will some day be utilized.

Dr. Townsend is not only a physician but also an ornithologist and he has a firm grasp on other subjects of natural history. His avocational attainments have enabled him to write a delightful book on the most conspicuous phases of the fauna and flora of this Labrador coast; and human studies also, both Indian and white, came in for a full share of his observations. The production of pulpwood is now the leading industry, and it is gratifying to hear that the land is not entirely despoiled of its timber, but that forestry methods are employed and the continued growth of the forest seems to be assured. One of the most edifying chapters is that given to the Indians known as the Montagnais or Mountaineers, who live to the south of the Hamilton river while the Nascaupes dwell to the north of it. The Montagnais are nomads who trap for furs, far and wide, during the winter, and come down to the coast, in summer, to sell their products and reburnish their veneer of Christianity, for they are fond of religious feast days and of the ceremonials of the Roman Catholic Church.

It is surprising that so good a book, largely geographical, should be without a map. There is sufficient material for one and a good sketch map of this region, appeared in "La Houille Blanche" by E. Rouillard (*Bull. Soc. Geog., Quebec*, Jan., 1909).

**Die Haupttypen des Sprachbaus.** Von Dr. Franz Nikolaus Finck, v. and 156 pp. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. M. 1.25.

The author, who is a professor in the University of Berlin, takes many characteristic texts from eight chief language types and, by comparison and discussion, gives an insight into the laws governing the formation of human speech. The languages with which he illustrates his subject are the Chinese, Greenlandic (Eskimo), Ssubja (on the upper Zambezi in South Africa), Turkish, Samoan, Arabic, Greek, and Georgian.

**Die Sprachstämme des Erdkreises.** Von Dr. Franz Nikolaus Finck. viii and 143 pp., and index. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. M. 1.25.

Dr. Finck bases, upon the modern results of the study of languages, the comprehensive view which he sets forth in this book of the language groups of the earth, their ramification into single tongues, and the reciprocal coherence of these tongues.

**Mensch und Erde. Von A. Kirchhoff.** Dritte Auflage. 100 pp. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. M. 1.25.

A reprint of this classical little work by the late Prof. Dr. Kirchhoff in which he treats, with consummate skill, of the inter-relations between man and his physical environment. Many notes have been added to the present edition, at the end of the book, giving further facts or comments relating to the text.

**Die Grundzüge der Praktische Hydrographie.** Von Richard Brauer. Bibliothek der gesamten Technik, 53 Band. 233 pp., 24 tables, 38 illustrations in the text and index. Dr. Max Jänecke, Verlagsbuchhandlung, Hanover, 1907. M. 3.40.

A concise and valuable work on hydrographic phenomena and on the methods, instruments and mathematical formulæ employed in hydrographical research and engineering.